



**In the Supreme Court of Iowa**

**In the Matter of  
Interim Rules to  
Govern the use of the  
Electronic Document  
Management System**

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**Supervisory Order**

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The judicial branch continues implementing the electronic document management system (EDMS) across the State of Iowa. This system enables the electronic filing, storage, and retrieval of court documents. Continued phasing in of EDMS in additional counties has allowed court staff, users, and the EDMS project management team to identify and address system and procedural issues.

The Chapter 16 Rules Pertaining to the use of the Electronic Document Management System are interim rules that govern the process for using EDMS as it is being implemented. In response to recommendations of the EDMS business advisory committee for immediate revision of the chapter 16 rules pertaining to criminal defendants, the court hereby amends the interim rules of Chapter 16 of the Iowa Court Rules governing EDMS, effective immediately.

Previously, rule 16.302(1) required every self-represented litigant, including criminal defendants, to register for electronic filing, unless the litigant seeks and is granted an exemption from electronic filing requirements from the court. The court amends rule 16.302(1) to provide an exception for criminal defendants from the requirement of registering for electronic filing. With the amendment, criminal defendants are not initially required to register with EDMS, but they still may.

These amendments also include striking a reference to "criminal defendants" in rule 16.320(2)(b) and a new rule 16.701(3) iterating that "A self-represented criminal defendant is not required to, but may choose to, be a

registered filer.”

The amendments to rules 16.302(1) and 16.320(2)(b), and the new rule 16.701(3), are attached to this order. These amendments are effective immediately.

Because chapter 16 rules are interim rules subject to limited application, these amendments shall not be published in the Iowa Court Rules.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2013.

The Supreme Court of Iowa

By Mark S. Cady  
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice